the several perils covered, or where the flood insurance coverage amount is over and above the limits of liability available to the insured under the Program.

Article XIV. Access to Books and Records

FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Comptroller General of the United States, or their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of investigation, audit, and examination shall have access to any books, documents, papers and records of the Company that are pertinent to this Arrangement. The Company shall keep records that fully disclose all matters pertinent to this Arrangement, including premiums and claims paid or payable under policies issued pursuant to this Arrangement. Records of accounts and records relating to financial assistance shall be retained and available for three (3) years after final settlement of accounts, and to financial assistance, three (3) years after final adjustment of such claims. FEMA shall have access to policyholder and claim records at all times for purposes of the review, defense, examination, adjustment, or investigation of any claim under a flood insurance policy subject to this Arrangement.

Article XV. Compliance With Act and Regulations

This Arrangement and all policies of insurance issued pursuant thereto are subject to Federal law and regulations.

Article XVI. Relationship Between the Parties and the Insured

Inasmuch as the Federal Government is a guarantor hereunder, the primary relationship between the Company and the Federal Government is one of a fiduciary nature, that is, to assure that any taxpayer funds are accounted for and appropriately expended. The Company is a fiscal agent of the Federal Government, but is not a general agent of the Federal Government. The Company is solely responsible for its obligations to its insured under any policy issued pursuant hereto, such that the Federal Government is not a proper party to any lawsuit arising out of such policies.


Roy E. Wright,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. 2017–07020 Filed 4–6–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9111–62–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA–2012–0012]

National Flood Insurance Program Nationwide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft nationwide programmatic environmental impact statement and notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft nationwide programmatic environmental impact statement (NPEIS) evaluating the environmental impacts of proposed modifications to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This Draft NPEIS includes an evaluation of the potential impacts to the natural and human environment associated with the NFIP at a nationwide programmatic level, as well as an evaluation of impacts of alternative proposals to modify the NFIP. Public meetings and public outreach opportunities will be held during the comment period on the Draft NPEIS. The Draft NPEIS is available for download at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID FEMA–2012–0012.

DATES: FEMA will conduct public meetings and webinars on the Draft NPEIS. For information on the dates, times, and locations for the public meetings or to register for an online webinar, visit https://www.fema.gov/programmatic-environmental-impact-statement. The public comment period on the Draft NPEIS starts with a concurrent publication through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of a notice in the Federal Register and will continue until June 6, 2017. FEMA will consider all comments recorded at the public meetings and all electronic and written comments on the Draft NPEIS received or postmarked by June 6, 2017. Agencies, interested parties, and the public are invited to submit comments on this Draft NPEIS at any time during the public comment period.

ADDRESSES: FEMA will hold public meetings to allow the public an opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide comments on the Draft NPEIS. In addition to the public meetings, FEMA has organized a series of online webinars. Similar to the in-person public meetings, during the webinars, FEMA will present information about the Draft NPEIS and accept comments on the Draft NPEIS. For information on the dates, times, and locations for the public meetings or to register for an online webinar, visit https://www.fema.gov/programmatic-environmental-impact-statement. You may submit comments, identified by Docket ID FEMA–2012–0012, using one of the following methods:

Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier: Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 8NE, 500 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20472.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the FEMA Docket ID. Regardless of the method used for submitting comments or materials, all submissions will be publicly available, become part of the public record, and may be printed in the Final NPEIS. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. All personally identifiable information, such as name or address, voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information on the NPEIS, contact Bret Gates, FEMA, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Floodplain Management Division, 400 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, or via email at Bret.Gates@fema.dhs.gov, or by phone at 202–646–2780.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Flooding has been, and continues to be, a serious risk in the United States. To address the need, in 1968, Congress established the NFIP as a Federal program to provide access to federally backed flood insurance protection. The NFIP is a voluntary Federal program through which property owners in participating communities can purchase Federal flood insurance as a protection against flood losses. In exchange, communities must enact local floodplain management regulations to reduce flood risk and flood-related damages. However, the power to regulate floodplain development, including requiring and approving permits, establishing permitting requirements, inspecting property, and citing violations, requires land use authority. The regulation of land use falls under the State’s police powers, which the Constitution reserves to the States, and the States delegate this power down to their respective political subdivisions. FEMA has no direct
involvement in the administration of local floodplain management ordinances or in the permitting process for development in the floodplain. In addition to providing flood insurance and reducing flood damages through floodplain management, the NFIP identifies and maps the nation’s floodplains. Maps depicting flood hazard information are used to promote broad-based awareness of flood hazards, provide data for rating flood insurance policies, and determine the appropriate minimum floodplain management criteria for flood hazard areas. On average, flooding continues to be the single greatest source of damage from natural hazards in the United States, causing about 82 deaths and $8 billion in property damage annually. Today, more than 22,000 communities participate in the NFIP, with more than 5.1 million flood insurance policies in effect, providing over $1.2 trillion in insurance coverage. The NFIP serves as the foundation for national efforts to reduce the loss of life and property from flood disaster. In 2011, former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate reported to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs that implementation of the NFIP minimum floodplain management requirements is estimated to save the nation about $1.7B annually through avoided flood losses. The proposed modifications to the NFIP are needed to (a) implement the legislative requirements of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW–12) and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA); and (b) to demonstrate compliance with the ESA. As stated in the draft NPEIS the need to implement the legislative requirements of BW–12 and HFIAA arises from the recent concerns over the fiscal soundness of the NFIP. This Draft NPEIS considers four alternatives and describes the potential environmental effects of each alternative. The four alternatives include:

- Alternative 1 (No Action)
- The No Action Alternative refers to the current implementation of the NFIP. The No Action Alternative is prescribed by Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1502.14(d)) and serves as a benchmark against which impacts of the alternatives can be evaluated.
- Alternative 3 (Legislatively Required Changes, Proposed ESA Regulatory Changes, and LOMC Clarification)
- Alternative 4 (Legislatively Required Changes, ESA Guidance, and LOMC Clarification)

For each alternative, the Draft NPEIS evaluates the public interest impacts of the alternatives can be mitigated to the maximum extent possible. The Draft NPEIS identifies and maps the nation’s floodplains. Maps depicting flood hazard information are used to promote broad-based awareness of flood hazards, provide data for rating flood insurance policies, and determine the appropriate minimum floodplain management criteria for flood hazard areas.

### Alternative 1 (No Action)

This Draft NPEIS considers four alternatives and describes the potential environmental effects of each alternative. The four alternatives include:

- **Alternative 1 (No Action)**
  - The No Action Alternative refers to the current implementation of the NFIP. The No Action Alternative is prescribed by Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1502.14(d)) and serves as a benchmark against which impacts of the alternatives can be evaluated.

  - Alternative 3 (Legislatively Required Changes, Proposed ESA Regulatory Changes, and LOMC Clarification)
  - Alternative 4 (Legislatively Required Changes, ESA Guidance, and LOMC Clarification)

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency
[Docket ID FEMA–2014–0022]

Technical Mapping Advisory Council

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Committee Management; Request for Applicants for Appointment to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Technical Mapping Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requesting qualified individuals interested in serving on the Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) to apply for appointment. As provided for in the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, the TMAC makes recommendations to the FEMA Administrator on how to improve, in a cost-effective manner, the accuracy, general quality, ease of use, and distribution and dissemination of flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) and risk data; and performance metrics and milestones required to effectively and efficiently map flood risk areas in the United States. Applicants will be considered for appointment for the four vacancies on the TMAC.

DATES: Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. EST on April 24, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Applications for membership should be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Email: FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mark Crowell (Designated Federal Officer for the TMAC); FEMA, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Risk Management Directorate, 400 C Street SW., Suite 313, Washington, DC 20472–3020; telephone: (202) 646–3432; and email: FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov. The TMAC Web site is: http://www.fema.gov/TMAC.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The TMAC is an advisory committee that was established by the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, 42 U.S.C. 4101a, and in accordance with provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. (Pub. L. 92–463). The TMAC is required to make recommendations to FEMA on mapping-related issues and activities. This includes mapping standards and guidelines, performance metrics and milestones, map maintenance, interagency and intergovernmental coordination, map accuracy, funding strategies, and other mapping-related issues and activities. In addition, the TMAC is required to submit an annual report to the FEMA Administrator that contains: (1) A description of the activities of the Council; (2) an evaluation of the status and performance of flood insurance rate maps and mapping activities to revise and update Flood Insurance Rate Maps; and (3) a summary of recommendations made by the Council to the FEMA Administrator.

Members of the TMAC will be appointed based on their demonstrated knowledge and competence regarding surveying, cartography, remote sensing, geographic information systems, or the technical aspects of preparing and using FIRMs. To the maximum extent practicable, FEMA will ensure that membership of the TMAC has a balance of Federal, State, local, Tribal, and private members, and includes geographic diversity.

FEMA is requesting qualified individuals who are interested in serving on the TMAC to apply for appointment. Applicants will be considered for appointment for four vacancies on the TMAC, the terms of which start on October 1, 2017. Certain members of the TMAC, as described below, will be appointed to serve as Special Government Employees (SGE) as defined in section 202(a) of title 18 United States Code. Candidates selected for appointment as SGEs are required to complete a Confidential Financial Disclosure Form (Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Form 450). This form can be obtained by visiting the Web site of the Office of Government Ethics (http://www.oge.gov). Please do not submit this form with your application. Qualified applicants will be considered for one or more of the following membership categories with vacancies:

a. One representative of a State government agency that has entered into a cooperating technical partnership with the FEMA Administrator and has demonstrated the capability to produce FIRMs;

b. One member (SGE) of a recognized professional association or organization representing flood hazard determination firms; and

c. One representative of a recognized professional association or organization representing State geographic information.

Members of the TMAC serve terms of office for two years. There is no